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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/06

SPONSOR Begaye LAST UPDATED _____ HB 11/aHEC

SHORT TITLE NAVAJO & ENGLISH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING SB _____

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$655.6	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment of House Bill 11 changes the appropriation from the Indian Affairs Department to the Public Education Department. Other than that the bill remains unchanged.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 11 (HB11) appropriates six hundred fifty-five thousand five hundred ninety-six dollars (\$655,596) to identify existing Navajo and English bilingual and educational programming and to develop and distribute language and educational curricula using digital technology.

Indian Affairs Department is to divide the total amount in two ways:

1. \$156,848 to identify in coordination with the Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT) and the public broadcasting station KNME existing Navajo and English bilingual educational programming;
2. \$498,748 to produce, develop and distribute Navajo language curricula in conjunction with the CIT and the Navajo Nation broadcasting service.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$655.6 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Indian Affairs Department notes.

The bill appears to align with the tenets of the NM Indian Education Act of 2003. The Act supports the maintenance of Native languages and development of Native American language curriculum to meet the needs of Indian students. The bill would bring several tribal entities together to produce or identify appropriate educational resources/programming that would address the preservation or revitalization of the Navajo language while supporting English literacy and proficiency. The bill intends to use television and digital technology to distribute the language and educational programming. These mediums are particularly important to ensure access to some of the remote Navajo Nation Chapters in New Mexico. A culturally relevant curriculum of this nature may assist Indian children achieve academic success while helping to preserve and maintain Native languages.

The Public Education Department adds.

The educational materials of this nature do not exist in the traditional publishing market from which instructional materials are obtained. This bill would address this need by creating materials in digital format, preserving the verbal and visual aspects of language that are not conveyed adequately in print alone.

MW/mt:nt